

*“Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed.
(John 4:50)*

I. The Problem of Familiarity (vv. 43–45)

- The Samaritans entered into who Jesus was because they carried fewer assumptions. The outsiders found what the insiders missed.

Familiarity can produce blindness that masquerades as knowledge.

II. The Problem of Signs (vv. 46–48)

- The crowd wanted more miracles. Jesus grieves that the miracle is all they want. *We often pursue Jesus for what He can give us, without any intent to receive Him as the Person He is.*

III. The Offer Beyond the Miracle (vv. 49–50)

- A miracle is something Jesus can do to edit a circumstance in our lives. What he offers beyond that is something to transform our lives by giving us His. *We sometimes only ask Jesus to edit a circumstance in our story, but He offers a different author (and better story) altogether.*

IV. The Nature of the Faith He’s After (v. 50b)

- The man believed Jesus’ word. *Faith that trusts His word is the faith Jesus is after.*

V. We Still Want the Miracle

- Jesus himself is better than the miracle, but we still want the miracle. That’s a tension we live in. *Ultimately, He is offering himself. Our deepest desires and longings are satisfied in Him.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Familiarity: The Galileans welcomed Jesus but didn’t honor him. They assumed they already knew what there was to know. Where in your own life might familiarity with

Christianity be producing the illusion of knowing Jesus rather than actually knowing him? What would it look like to approach Him with fresh eyes?

2. Signs and Faith: Jesus grieves that the Galileans won’t believe without a sign. Honestly, what would you say you need in order to trust Jesus more fully right now, and what does your answer reveal about what you believe about Him?
3. The Offer Behind the Miracle: The sermon drew a contrast between asking Jesus to edit your story and receiving him as the author of a new one. Which of those better describes the way you tend to approach Jesus? What would it mean to want Him more than the outcome you’re praying for?
4. Taking Jesus at His Word: The official believed Jesus’ word and walked seventeen miles home with no evidence that his son would be healed. Is there an area of your life where Jesus has spoken, through Scripture, prayer, or community, and you’re waiting for evidence before you act on it? What would it look like to take Him at his word?
5. Wanting the Miracle: The sermon didn’t ask you to stop wanting your miracle. It asked you to seek the Lord first. What miracle are you still waiting for? How does knowing that Jesus is more than a miracle, that he is dealing with death itself, change how you hold that hope?

DIG DEEPER

This week dig deeper in one or more of the following ways:

- **Exploring Faith**—The official came to Jesus out of desperation. He didn’t have everything figured out theologically. He just knew he needed help that only Jesus could give. Is there something in your life driving you toward Jesus right now? Bring it to him honestly, as the official did, and sit with His response. Share that journey with someone.
- **Growing in Faith**—Read John 3:16, 5:24, 10:10, and 11:25–26 this week. Notice how John uses the word “life” across these passages. What kind of life is Jesus offering in each one? How does this change what you think you’re asking for when you pray?
- **Centered in Faith**—Colossians 3:1–4 says your life is already hidden with Christ in God, that the transfer has already happened. Spend time this week in prayer asking God to make that reality feel more real than your circumstances. What would it look like for that truth to shape how you face whatever miracle you’re still waiting for?